

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 PM-07 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01

SS-20 OMB-01 IGA-02 DRC-01 /111 W

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R 171300Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5011

INFO SECDEF

CJCS

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 2395

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, MASS, SWEL, CB

SUBJECT: U.S. EMERGENCY MEASURES IN RELIEF OF VICTIMS OF COMMUNIST
SHELLING OF PHNOM PENH

REF: (A) PHNOM PENH 2343

(B) PHNOM PENH 2306

(C) STATE 29408

1. THE INDISCRIMINATE SHELLING OF PHNOM PENH ON FEBRUARY 11 BY COMMUNIST 105 MM. HOWITZER GUNNERS WAS A MAJOR DISASTER (THE EXPLOSIONS AND FIRES CAUSED BY 55 ROUNDS RESULTED IN AT LEAST 139 DEAD, MORE THAN 100 BURNED OR INFURED, 10,000 HOMELESS, 1,500 HOUSES DESTROYED AND ONE-HALF SQUARE KILOMETER RAZED TO THE GROUND IN THE SOUTHERN QUARTERS OF THE CAPITAL).

2. THAT SAME EVENING, HAVING VISITED THE AREAS WHERE FIRES WERE RAGING, PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET CALLED AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE CABINET, WHICH PRODUCED DECISIONS NOT ONLY TO TAKE GOVERNMENTAL MEASURES IN RELIEF OF THE VICTIMS OF THE BOMBARDMENT AND THE FIRES, BUT ALSO TO APPEAL FOR PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MONEY AND GOODS AND PERSONAL DONATIONS OF WHOLE BLOOD. A NATIONAL
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MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE (LE COMITE NATIONALE D'ENTRAIDE), REF (B)

CONSISTING OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND EIGHT OTHER CABINET MINISTERS AND SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS, WAS ESTABLISHED (BY GKR PRAKAS NO. 414/74) TO RECEIVE CONTRIBUTIONS AND APPLY THEM TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF SHELTERS AND THE PRIVION OF FOOD AND OTHER NECESSITIES OF LIFE. THE RECEIPTS AND EXPEDITURES OF THE COMMITTEE'S FUNDS ARE TO BE MADE PUBLIC. THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY, FEBRUARY 16 THAT A TOTAL OF 5.5 MILLION RIELS HAVE BEEN CONTRIBUTED AS OF THAT DATE. NOTEWORTHY AMONG THE DONATIONS, WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN PUBLISHED, WAS ONE FROM THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR (1,000 POUNDS STERLING) AND ANOTHER OF 1.75 MILLION RIELS FROM "A GROUP OF FOREIGN DONORS".

3. AT A CEREMONY ATTENDED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS CABINET AND LOCAL RESIDENTS AT THE BOEUNG SALANG SCHOOL IN THE DEVASTATED AREA SATURDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 16, THE CHARGE D'AFFIARS AND THE COUNTRY TEAM PRESENTED THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DONATIONS. THEY CONSISTED OF:

A. A CHECK FOR 5 MILLION RIELS (EQUIVALENT TO \$13,316) USG EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS, PROVIDED UNDER PROCEDURES LAID OUT IN AID M.O. 1563.1 AND 2 FAMO 60 (REF (B)). THIS AMOUNT ROUGHLY EQUALLED THE TOTAL COLLECTED BY THE COMMHTTEE AS OF YESTERDAY (SEE PARA TWO ABOVE).

B. ONE FIRE TRUCK ON LOAN FROM USTGM THIS TRUCK WAS PROVIDED ON A CRASH BASIS BY CINCPACFLT IN RESPONSE TO CINCPAC'S APPEAL AND WAS FLOWN IN FROM UTAPAO BY USAF AT AID EXPENSE IN TIME TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE CEREMONY.

C. A CHECK FOR 332,386 RIELS (EQUIVALENT OF \$886) WHIVH WAS THE TOTAL AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED VOLUNTARILY BY 63 MEMBERS OF THE U. S. MISSION IN PHNOM PENH.

D. AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT 106 MEMBERS OF THE U.S. MISSION HAD VOLUNTEERED TO GIVE BLOOD.

4. SUBSTANCE OF CHARGE'S REMARKS ON THAT OCCASION, WITH EXCERPTS, WAS PROVIDED REF (A). IN HIS EXPRESSION OF APIHECIATION WHICH FOLLOWED, THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAD CHOSEN ONE OF THE POOREST, MOST HEAVILY POPULATED AREAS OF THE CITY AS THEIR TARGET (RATHER THAN ANY MILITARY INSTALLATION).

5. SINCE FEBRUARY 11, VOLAGS (CARE, CRS AND IOG) HAVE DISTRIBUTED FOOD, CLOTHING, MATS, COOKING UTENSILS AND MOSQUITO UNCLASSIFIED

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NETS TO 1,870 FAMILIES. THEY ARE NOW COLLECTING CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TO ENABLE EACH FAMILY TO CONSTRUCT A SMALL HOUSE. FURTHER DETAILS BY SEPTEL.

6. COMMENT. THE USG EMERGENCY RELIEF CHECK MENTIONED ABOVE (PARA 3-A) IS TO BE CONSIDERED AN INITIAL CONTRIBUTION. IN VIEW OF THE DEVASTATION AND THE EXTREME HARDSHIP SUFFERED BY THE TEN THOUSAND VICTIMS OF THE FIRE, ONE OR MORE FURTHER U.S. CONTRIBU-

TIONS WILL BE IN ORDER IF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR MUTUAL AID
DEMONSTRATES THAT IT IS USING THE FUNDS PROPERLY AND EFFECTIVELY.
WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF CINCPAC WE ARE ENDEAVORING TO LOCATE FIVE
ADDITIONAL FIRE TRUCKS FOR LOAN TO THE GKR, UNTIL EQUIPMENT
PURCHASED WITH AID ASSISTANCE CAN GET HERE (THE CAPITAL'S
PRESENT FIRE FIGHTING CAPABILITY IS STILL PATHETICALLY LOW).
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